

## Stephen Tracey and the Loring family

Prior to 1633 Stephen Tracey was granted land in the 1627 Plymouth Second Division, in which every man woman and child except servants received 20 acres. The property has been described as 80 acres, but it appears to be more like 60. Stephen had five children at that time and a grant of 80 acres on the North River can be readily found. It's possible that with five children the family was entitled to 140 acres. So if they were given 80 acres at the North River, it's quite possible they were given 60 acres in the Island Creek district, 80 plus 60 equals 140, a little "Monty Math."

The Tracey grant was just north of Joseph Rogers' property and extended from the bay on the east to Tussock Brook on the west and was entirely in what was to become Duxbury in 1637. In later years (1857) the town line was diagonally across this grant when Kingston annexed "the Kingston Nook," much to the chagrin of Duxbury officials, but with the Massachusetts General Court's approval.

Stephen Tracey returned to England in 1653/4 and did not return to America.

While he was here he was a muchrespected man who worked on committees to lay out highways and assess taxes.

He served on the coroner's jury, the grand jury and as a Duxbury constable. So whether your name is spelled Tracey, Trace, Tracie, Trasey or Tracy, you can feel good about Stephen Tracey, the Pilgrim. Stephen, through proxy John Winslow, deeded "all his land and buildings in Duxbury" to his son John on March 20, 1654/5. John Tracey sold what was described as 80 acres (which we today know was only 60 acres) to Thomas Loring on Dec. 3, 1702.

Thomas Loring, the third eldest son of that name, was the progenitor of the Loring families in Duxbury. His grandfather Thomas, a deacon, arrived in Hingham in 1634 and settled near the Weir River. The deacon and his neighbors were the people who built the weir for fishing purposes. In March of 1645/6 his house burned, and rather than replace it, he moved to Hull.

While we are here, what's with the double dates? The 11th and 12th months were considered to be January and February, and March the first, although they kept the old year number until the 25th of March, the day of the Annunciation of the Virgin, which was New Year's Day.

Just to complicate research all the more.

Thomas, the deacon, took a prominent place in Hull acting as a constable (which was a court officer) and tax collector, among other duties. He acquired considerable land in Hull and in the new plantation of "Sickonke" (Seakonk and Rehoboth). He left a sizeable estate of over 330, when he died in 1661. The deacon's son Thomas (we might start to number them because there were four, so we'll call this one Thomas 2) stayed in Hingham and became a leader in the community and like his father accumulated a great deal of wealth, his estate amounting to over 700 pounds. Thomas (2) married Hannah Jacobs, whose father "came from old Hingham in England in 1633, with his wife and two children and their cosen Thomas Lincoln, weaver." Could be another story - is this a connection to "honest" Abe?

Thomas (2) was a selectman in Hingham and was re-elected several times. He died in 1678. It should be noted that the Loring name still survives in Hingham, think Loring Hall and many names in the phone book.

Duxbury's Thomas (3) was born in Hingham on March 15, 1667/8. In 1699 he married Deborah Cushing, who survived her husband and later married Col. Sylvester Richmond and lived to be 96. Thomas was prominent in Duxbury, becoming a selectman and treasurer. He was lieutenant of the local military militia company. He was on the grand jury in 1694, on a petit jury (a smaller or lesser jury) in 1722, and was elected deputy to the general court. He bought a farm in Bridgewater and was the owner of three slaves. His daughter married Perez Richmond, son of her mother's second husband by his first wife - just thought I'd throw that in to keep you awake.

Thomas (3)'s three sons, Thomas (4), Nathaniel and Benjamin became the progenitors of all (as far as I know) the Lorings who amassed several hundred acres of land in that area. The land progenitors of all (as far as I know) the Lorings who amassed several hundred acres of land in that area. The land included Bay Farm, Miramar, Cretinon's farm, the park where the dog-walkers go and most included Bay Farm, Miramar, Cretinon's farm, the park where the dog-walkers go and most of the land in Kingston to the Jones River.

Like their predecessors, the Loring family descendants accomplished a great deal. Thomas (4)'s line of descendants included Levi and Perez, who were owners of much of the property where Miramar and the Bay Farm Condominium are; and his more recent descendants were Waldo F. and Edgar W. Loring who developed the Ah-De-Nah development, earlier known as the Nook in Kingston. Thomas (4)'s brother Benjamin's descendants included Samuel Loring, the owner of a tack factory just below Island Creek Pond.

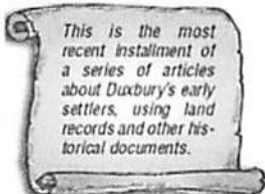
He, Samuel, was also the father of Nancy Sprague (Loring) Parks who was Plymouth County's most fascinating debutante.

Benjamin's other descendant Harrison, Samuel's brother, was a ship builder who stayed in the business long enough to build iron-clad ships in the Civil War. Harrison also ran the Bay Farm Dairy with his son Atherton.

Nathaniel's descendants included Edwin E. Loring I, II, & III ("Chip") who owned Millbrook Motors and provided Duxburyites with "Duxbury Cadillacs" (Jeeps) for over 60 years. Thomas (3)'s other son, Joshua (1701-1781), was a sea captain who died unmarried. We'll cover most of these people as we do the grants from Miramar to Hicks Point and Seabury Point.



BY LAMONT "MONTY" HEALTY



This is the most recent installment of a series of articles about Duxbury's early settlers, using land records and other historical documents.